



ACQUISITION,
TECHNOLOGY
AND LOGISTICS

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3010

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MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN, DEFENSE SCIENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Terms of Reference – Defense Science Board 2016 Summer Study on Capabilities for Constrained Military Operations

Over the last two decades the U.S. has sustained the credibility of its nuclear deterrent and maintained sufficient conventional forces to deter major aggression by a peer or near-peer competitor. More recently we have honed our capabilities for combatting global terrorism. For the last 20 years, however, we have seen a third category of conflict that occurs again and again. These conflicts are regional, may be represented by an insurgency against a standing government, military and political activities within a sovereign nation conducted by a neighbor, disputes over territory between neighboring nations, or terrorist or criminal activities within ungoverned territories or within failing states.

In these conflicts it has been very difficult to assess the situation and to determine what U.S. interests are at stake. Additional challenges include determining what actions should the U.S. take to protect those interests, who our allies and adversaries are in the particular situation, and what end-state would be best to protect our interests and result in the most favorable outcome. These actions and plans are usually constrained by: cost considerations, the need for coalitions of supporting nations, the desire to use minimal physical force, a strong desire to minimize U.S. military and civilian casualties, the need to minimize damage to critical infrastructure, and an awareness that public opinion - internationally, in the region, and at home - plays a highly influential shaping role.

Overarching goals of the USG are to protect its interests early before hostilities begin and to deter aggression with the objective of minimum loss of life and infrastructure through the use of shaping techniques, massive information collection and assessment and autonomous and non-lethal capabilities.

The objective of the 2016 Summer Study on Capabilities for Constrained Military Operations is to assess the military planning, shaping, and operational activities that address potential threats to U.S. interests and strive to establish stability in critical regions of the world that do not rise to the level of full scale military operations. Areas of consideration will include an assessment of current planning processes within DoD Policy, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Combatant Commands, and the Intelligence Community with a focus on the period before significant hostilities begin. What information is required - provided by traditional ISR, emerging commercial sources, and social media - to assess which threats to U.S. interests are in play, who is responsible for the threat, what are their objectives, and what can be done to deter their activities? What physical and cyber based capabilities does the DoD currently have to bring to bear on the situation, what commercial capabilities can be employed, and what technologies must be developed?

I will sponsor the study. Mr. Vincent Vitto and General Michael Carns, USAF (retired) will serve as Co-chairs of the study. LTC Keith R. Walters, USA, (OSD ODNA) will serve as Executive Secretary. Lt Col Victor Osweiler, USAF, will serve as the DSB Secretariat Representative.

The study will operate in accordance with the provisions of P.L. 92-463, the “Federal Advisory Committee Act” and DoD Directive 5105.04, the DoD Federal Advisory Committee Management Program.” It is not anticipated that this study will need to go into any “particular matters” within the meaning of title 18, United States Code, section 208, nor will it cause any member to be placed in the position of action as a procurement official.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Kendall', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Frank Kendall